

## Oversize Photo Scanning Project

### Coal Miners' Faces

November 5, 2010

The only identifying information we have for this photo is "Denny-Renton Mine Crew at top of slope." It was donated by Mrs. Sylvia Ward. She wrote on the back of the photograph that her father, William Anderson, is one of the miners pictured. Based on the type of equipment the miners are pictured with, the photograph likely dates between 1905-1910. (RHM #1966.085.0775)



The photograph's excellent quality allows us to see the men in great detail. The miners' dirty faces seem to suggest this photograph was taken after one of their grueling shifts down in the mine shafts. Almost all of the miners have safety lamps with them. These lamps, vital to mine safety, detected flammable gases and alerted the miners of the danger.



Above: Two miners jokingly pose with their safety lamps.

Right: This man's face tells of the hardships of working deep underground.



Above: The man on the right has a whip around his neck. Teamsters used mules underground in the mines to haul the coal cars.